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20 April 1965
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DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Resources Division, ORR

25X1A ATTENTION : [REDACTED] R/MM
THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS
FROM : Chief, Photographic Intelligence Division, CIA
SUBJECT : Murun-Tau Mountain Gold Mining, USSR
REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR5-82,403
(2) CIA/PID Project No. 30472-5

1. This memorandum is in response to the referenced requirement which asks for a search of the Murun-Tau Mountains to locate a new village, an associated gold concentration plant and an open pit mine, reported to exist in the area.

25X1D 2. The search revealed a new village near an area where extensive geological exploration and mining is occurring. The village is located on the southern slope of Murun-Tau Mountain at coordinates 41 29N - 64 37E, and consists of a housing area and a probable support base which contains warehouses, open storage, repair facilities and other unidentified buildings. (See CIA/PID/IB-P-431/65). Construction of the new settlement did not appear to have been underway on [REDACTED] photography, although the extremely poor quality of that mission could have masked tents and small buildings.

25X1B A search of the area near the village did not reveal the presence of an ore concentrating facility. The unidentified building shown on CIA/PID/IB-P-431/65 may possibly be used to perform hand-separation of high-grade ore from waste. [REDACTED]

25X1B [REDACTED] There is no evidence of the pipe lines necessary to supply water in amounts required to perform conventional ore concentration.

No open pit mine was observed in the vicinity of Murun-Tau Mountain. However, an exploration site was found near the new village at coordinates 41 28N - 64 36E (CIA/PID/IB-P-432/65). The densely striated terrain appearing in the center of the above referenced photograph indicates that an ore body has been found. Several shaft mines were identified from the presence of head-frames and dark-toned spoil. A number of the usual support buildings have been built near the two shafts, but there is no sign of any rail or conveyor system for transporting ore from the mines.

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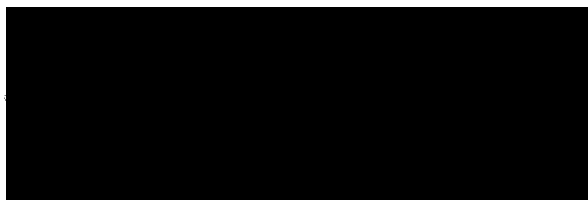
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The large building located between the two mines possibly houses generators that provide electricity for light and power. Cable trenches can be seen leading from the building to both mine sites.

This operation appears to be beyond the purely exploration stage, and the two mines have probably just begun production. However, there is no present indication of the type of ore being exploited here.

3. The analyst assigned to this project was [REDACTED] who 25X1A may be contacted on extension 2547 should you have any questions regarding this requirement. This memorandum and enclosed graphics complete this requirement.

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Enclosures:

- 2 Annotated photographs
- CIA/PID/IB-P-431/65
- CIA/PID/IB-P-432/65

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PROBABLE SUPPORT AREA

EXPLORATION SITE

POSSIBLE ORE CONCENTRATION

EXPLOSIVES STORAGE

HOUSING AREA

MURUN-TAU MOUNTAIN

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED VILLAGE
MURUN-TAU MOUNTAIN
41 29N - 64 37E

25X1D

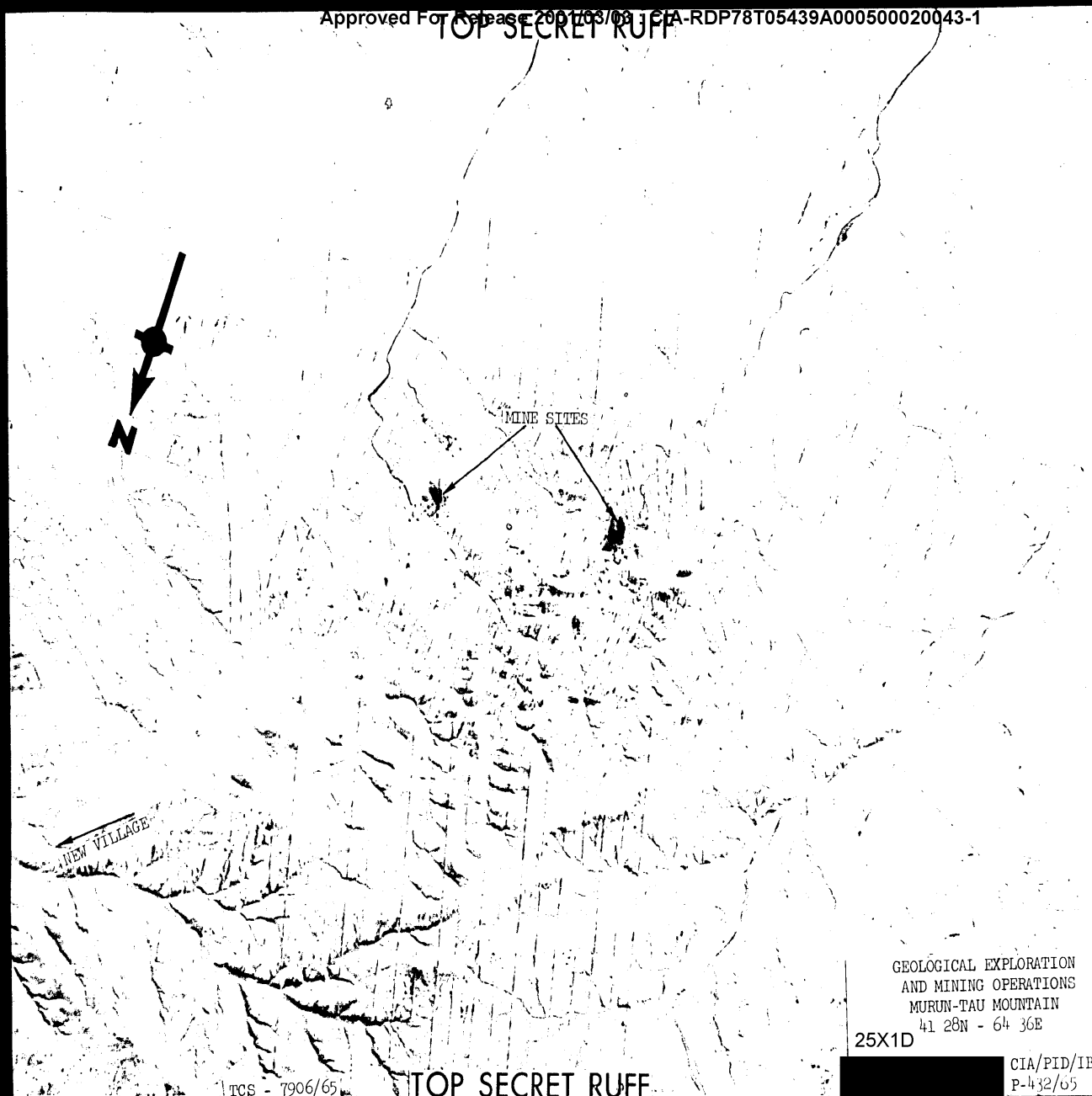
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GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION
AND MINING OPERATIONS
MURUN-TAU MOUNTAIN
41 28N - 64 36E

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